

Plant Materials 2000, Goodhue County



**Partners: USDA - NRCS Goodhue Field Office
Prairie Island Dakota Community
USDA – NRCS PMC Bismarck**

In the Fall of 1999, word came that various plant materials were available for field testing. Goodhue County Minnesota District Conservationist Thomas Steger approached Heather Westra, Environmental Coordinator for the Prairie Island Dakota Indian community about this program. Steger and Westra met with Art Owen who is responsible for land management on the reservation. They looked at a site near a newly established bison project area that is adjacent to an oak savanna. The site proved suitable for a field planting of black chokeberry, a native shrub with wildlife benefits.



Environmental Coordinator Heather Westra, marking recent planting of black chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*(ARME6)). The planting is adjacent to bison pasture, oak savanna and Clear Lake.



Newly planted sweetgrass (*Hierochloe dorara* (HIOD))

A site on the other side of the reservation, adjacent to Mississippi River backwaters, proved suitable for grass plantings. This area is being developed for housing for tribal members. The grass planting of buffalo and bluegrama grass will serve as an example of xeriscaping that the new homeowners may consider utilizing themselves. There will also be a planting of sweetgrass, which is culturally significant for the Dakota peoples.



Broadcast seeding mixture of “Bad River” bluegrama grass (*Bouteloua gracillis*) and “Tatanka” buffalograss (*Buchloe dactyloides*). This was then raked in and rolled to firm in the seed and seedbed.